



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.		
10/560,743	12/15/2005	James G. Hildebrandt	32149.001	1692		
7590	11/12/2008	<table border="1"><tr><td>EXAMINER</td></tr><tr><td>PAUL, DISLER</td></tr></table>			EXAMINER	PAUL, DISLER
EXAMINER						
PAUL, DISLER						
Susan S. Jackson Kennedy Covington Lobdell & Hickman, L.L.P. Hearst Tower, 47th Floor 214 North Tryon Street Charlotte, NC 28202		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER			
		2614				
		MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE			
		11/12/2008	PAPER			

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/560,743	HILDEBRANDT, JAMES G.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	DISLER PAUL	2614

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 8/5/08.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 2-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 2-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Claim Objections

1. Claim18 objected to because of the following informalities: the applicant refers to the "forth speaker". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. Claims 10-11 recites the limitation "the sound absorbing material". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

2. Claim 18 recites the limitation "the third speaker and fourth speaker". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 2-6; 8-11; 14-18; 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Meucci Jr. (US 6,038,330).

Re claim 2, Meucci Jr. 3disclose of a headset apparatus comprising: at least first and second speakers, each speaker comprising a speaker chamber extending posteriorly therefrom and at least one first tube connected adjacent a first end thereof anterior to the first speaker; at least one second tube connected adjacent a first end thereof anterior to the second speaker (fig.4-5 wt (70,40); col.3 line 55-67/speaker in housing/cavity and with tube anterior); a first outlet at a second end of the at least one first tube for positioning the at least one first outlet at a first position adjacent a user ear; and a second outlet at a second end of the at least one second tube for positioning the

at least one second outlet at a second position adjacent the user ear (fig.2,4,6; col.6 line 35-65).

Re claim 3, the headset apparatus of claim 2, wherein the chamber is an acoustically sealed, ported or vented chamber (fig.5 wt 70; col.8 line 25-35).

Re claim 4, the headset apparatus of claim 2, wherein the at least one first tube is continuous with at least one second tube at respective first ends thereof (fig.4).

Re claim 5, the headset apparatus of claim 2 further comprising ear engaging members for housing the first and second outlets (fig.2)

Re claim 6, the headset apparatus of claim 2 wherein the first and second outlets each flareoutwardly in a direction away from the first and second tubes respectively (fig.4).

Re claim 15, the headset apparatus of claim 5 wherein the ear engaging members are perforated (fig.4)).

Re claim 16, the headset apparatus of claim 2 wherein the at least one first and second speakers and the at least one first and second tubes are positioned generally on top of a user head or in a substantially horizontal plane generally at sides of a user head (fig.2)).

Re claim 17, the headset apparatus of claim 2 comprising four or more speakers (fig.4 (40)/wt plurality of speakers).

Re claim 8, the headset apparatus of claim 2 with the chamber rearwardly disposed, wherein the chamber is provided with sound absorbing material on a rearwardly disposed interior surface thereof (fig.5 (58); fig.4 (80); col.7 line 25-40) .

Re claim 9, the headset apparatus of claim 2, with the wherein at least one of the first and second tubes is provided with sound absorbing mateiral therein between a respective first end thereof and a respective first or second speaker, (fig.5 (58); fig.4 (80); col.7 line 25-40) .

Re claim 10, the headset apparatus of claim 2, wherein a sound absorbing material substantially blocks the at least one of the first and second tubes (fig.5 (58); fig.4 (80); col.7 line 25-40).

Re claim 11, the headset apparatus of claim 2 wherein a sound absorbing material partially blocks the at least one of the first and second tubes (see claim 10 rejection).

Re claim 14, the headset apparatus of claim 4 wherein the ear engaging members are provided with sound absorbing material on an inner surface thereof (see claim 8 rejection).

Re claim 18, the headset apparatus of claim 17 comprising at least 4 speakers, wherein: a third tube is connected adjacent a first end thereof to the third speaker, the second end of the third tube for positioning adjacent the user's ear, and a fourth tube is connected adjacent a first end thereof to a fourth speaker, the second end of the fourth tube for positioning adjacent the user's ear (fig.2 ; fig.4 wt (40)/plurality of tube with appropriate speakers).

5. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Meucci, Jr. and further in view of Lin (US 6,084,976).

Re claim 7, the headset apparatus of claim 2, But, Meucci, Jr. fail to disclose of the wherein the chamber is a vented or ported chamber. But, Lin disclose of a headphone apparatus wherein the chamber is a vented or ported chamber (fig.2-4; col. 4 line 20-30) for purpose of enabling user to partially have hearing form outside environment. Thus, taking the combined teaching of Meucci, Jr. and Lin as a whole, it would have been obvious for one of the ordinary skill in the art to have modified Meucci, Jr. with the chamber is a vented or ported chamber for purpose of enabling user to partially have hearing form outside environment.

6. Claims 12-13; 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Meucci, Jr. and further in view of Yamagishi (US 5,459,290).

Re claim 12, the headset apparatus of claim 2 further comprising at least one speaker adjacent the user ear, but, Meucci, Jr. fail to disclose of the specific wherein the speaker being of a bass speaker. But, Yamagishi disclose of a headset wherein the specific wherein the speaker being of a bass speaker adjacent the use ear (col.5 line 5-30) for purpose of producing sound in wide frequency band for improve sound. Thus, taking the combined teaching of Meucci, Jr. and Yamagishi as a whole, it would have been obvious for one of the ordinary skill in the art to have modified Meucci, Jr. with the specific wherein the speaker being of a bass speaker adjacent the use ear for purpose of producing sound in wide frequency band for improve sound.

Re claim 13, the headset apparatus of claim 12 wherein the at least one bass speaker is housed within an ear engaging member (fig.1-3).

Re claim 21, the headset apparatus of claim 2, But, Meucci, Jr. fail to disclose of the further comprising a slider joint between the ear engaging members and the first and second outlets for enabling adjustment of a connection length between the ear engaging members and the first and second outlets when the user ear is moved relative to the headset apparatus. But, Yamagishi disclose of a headset wherein a slider joint

between the ear engaging members and the first and second outlets for enabling adjustment of a connection length between the ear engaging members and the first and second outlets when the user ear is moved relative to the headset apparatus ((fig.8; col.5 line 55-67) for purpose of enabling a user to adjust the apparatus in the ear. Thus, taking the combined teaching of Meucci, Jr. and Yamagishi as a whole, it would have been obvious for one of the ordinary skill in the art to have modified Meucci, Jr. with a slider joint between the ear engaging members and the first and second outlets for enabling adjustment of a connection length between the ear engaging members and the first and second outlets when the user ear is moved relative to the headset apparatus for purpose of enabling a user to adjust the apparatus in the ear.

7. Claims 19- 20; 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Meucci, Jr. .

Re claim 20, the headset apparatus of claim 2, but, Meucci, JR. fail to disclose of further comprising an electronic controller to control emissions of the first and second speakers. But, official notice is taken the concept of having an electronic controller to control emissions of speakers is well known in the art, thus, it would have been obvious for one of the ordinary skill in the art to have modified Meucci , Jr. with the electronic controller to control emissions of speakers for enabling the user to manually adjusting the speakers output.

Re claim 19, Meucci, Jr. disclose of the headset apparatus of claim 18, wherein having the first and second speakers, and the third and fourth speakers and tubes provided respectively, But, Meucci, Jr. fail to disclose of the specific wherein the first and second speakers are front-left and front-right speakers and the first and second tubes connected adjacent thereto terminate in the anterior portion of left and right ear cups respectively, and wherein, the third and fourth speakers are rear-left and rear-right speakers and the third and fourth tubes connected adjacent thereto terminate in the posterior portion of left and right ear cups respectively. But, official notice is taken the concept to having the first and second speakers are front-left and front-right speakers and the first and second tubes connected adjacent thereto terminate in the anterior portion of left and right ear cups respectively, and wherein, the third and fourth speakers are rear-left and rear-right speakers and the third and fourth tubes connected adjacent thereto terminate in the posterior portion of left and right ear cups respectively is simply the designer's preference. thus, it would have been obvious for one of the ordinary skill in the art to have modified Meucci, Jr, with the first and second speakers are front-left and front-right speakers and the first and second tubes connected adjacent thereto terminate in the anterior portion of left and right ear cups respectively, and wherein, the third and fourth speakers are rear-left and rear-right speakers and the third and fourth tubes connected adjacent thereto terminate in the posterior portion of left and right ear cups respectively for enhancing 3-D virtual sound.

Re claim 22, Meucci, Jr. disclose of the headset apparatus comprising at least one speaker having a speaker chamber extending posteriorly therefrom and a tube connected anterior to said speaker (Meucci, fig.4-5) , But, Meucci fail to disclose of wherein said tube bifurcating into two outlets for positioning adjacent to a user's ears. But, official notice is taken the concept of having the tube bifurcating into two outlets for positioning adjacent to a user's ears is common sense. Thus, it would have been obvious for one of the ordinary skill in the art to have modified Meucci, Jr. with the tube bifurcating into two outlets for positioning adjacent to a user's ears for producing corresponding output sound signals respectively into each ear of the users.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DISLER PAUL whose telephone number is (571)270-1187. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chin Vivian can be reached on 571-272-7848. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/D. P./
Examiner, Art Unit 2614

/Vivian Chin/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2614